



Federal, State officials detail plan to handle Asian carp threat

WASHINGTON – After a White House meeting christened the "carp summit," federal and state officials on February 8 announced a multi-pronged attack with a \$78.5 million price tag to prevent Asian carp, from establishing populations in Lake Michigan.

Nancy Sutley, the president's top environmental adviser, led the meeting at the request of the governors of Michigan and Wisconsin, who were on hand. Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois was scheduled to attend, but had to cancel his travel plans because of the winter weather and planned to take part by teleconference.

Officials then unveiled an Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework, which they characterized as "aggressive" and "unparalleled." It features more than 25 short-term and

long-term actions funded by major spending, some of which already are in the pipeline.

Asian carp are considered a major threat to the Great Lakes and its commercial and recreational fishing industry, which estimates call a \$7 billion enterprise.

The new strategy calls for a multi-tiered defense of the Great Lakes to keep carp out while scientists try to develop biological controls to prevent the prolific, non-native fish from developing self-sustaining populations.

Officials said a priority is limiting the number of carp that enter Lake Michigan. Key containment measures include:

► Constructing and bringing online a third electric barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal at the cost of \$10.5 million; two existing barriers

are near Romeoville, Ill.,

► Awarding a \$13.2 million contract next month to construct concrete and chain-link fencing between the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Des Plaines River. The aim is to prevent fish passing around electric barriers when flooding occurs.

► Opening Chicago's navigational locks less frequently to block carp movement and studying the feasibility and impact of permanent lock closure,

► Deploying larger field crews to conduct physical and sonar observation, electro-shocking and netting,

► Testing 120 water samples a week, twice the current number, for eDNA, which refers to environmental DNA showing trace amounts of carp,

Fed, State officials detail plan

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New tests suggest Asian carp in Calumet Harbor Agencies accelerate action in response

Chicago – The multi-agency Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) has received information from the University of Notre Dame about one positive environmental DNA result for silver carp in Calumet Harbor approximately one-half mile north of the Calumet River and one more at a location in the Calumet River north of O'Brien Lock. These samples were collected on December 8 and recently processed. Two previous tests of multiple water samples from this area were negative.

Dr. David Lodge, director of the eDNA project at the University of Notre Dame, said that only a portion of the samples collected have been analyzed, but he cautioned that there

is no known correlation between the number of positive samples and the quantity of Asian carp. "Our current eDNA process provides indications of likely presence, but it does not yet provide information about Asian carp quantity that may be present, age, size, how they got there or how long they may have been there," said Lodge. Lodge further iterated that if Asian carp are present it is vital to keep the barriers operating in a continued defense. "It is important to keep additional fish from migrating into the lake to lower the possibility that a self-sustaining population will result," said Lodge.

Asian carp in Calumet Harbor

Continued on page 10

Asian Carp meeting on Feb. 17 in Ypsilanti, MI

CHICAGO – A public meeting on Asian Carp Control will be held in Ypsilanti, MI, on February 17 to discuss plans and get input on Asian carp control efforts. This will be the second public meeting in the region.

The IJC, in cooperation with the agencies below will host the meeting, including senior representatives from the IJC, USEPA, USFWS, USCG, USACE, Great Lakes states, provinces, municipalities, White House Council on Environmental Quality; and scientific experts.

When?

3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17

Where?

Marriott Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, MI;
1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The meeting also will be available via live Web stream at: <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/live>.

Those who cannot attend the meeting in person can submit questions on the Web site.

A transcript of the meeting will eventually be posted online at <http://www.asiancarp.org/regionalcoordination>. Comments on the framework may also be submitted online at the above Web site. ✧

Cox to also hold town hall sessions on Carp

Each meeting will be attended by AG Cox and the respective member of Congress that represents the district of the hearing as follows:

➤Congressman Camp, Feb. 17th, 11:00-12:00 – Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City

➤Congressman Upton, Feb. 18th, 11:00-12:00 – Location in St. Joseph TBD

➤Congressman Ehlers, Feb. 22nd, 10:00-11:00 – Gerald Ford Museum Auditorium, Grand Rapids

For more info: Hurley, Rachel (AG) HurleyR@michigan.gov ✧

Nominations open for GLSFC officers, directors

Nominations are open for all officer and director positions of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council for the '11-'12 term. Nominations will be accepted via e-mail through August 31.

Interested in getting involved? Want to participate in the advocacy process of building and supporting our recreational fishery – and at the same time work more closely with government agencies? Get involved – get nominated.

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is on the cutting edge of issues and information. We need your help to help us generate that time-sensitive information to our members, potential members and the general public. Our award-winning Web site gets over 2.5 million hits monthly and we need to continue feeding hungry anglers with sound information. You can help us by volunteering some time.

Nominations are open for all offices including:

Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Directors

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
New York
Ohio
Ontario
Pennsylvania
Wisconsin

Voting will again be conducted by First Class mail only. Ballots will be mailed in September, votes counted and results announced in late October or November. Send nominations to: Nominating Committee, staff@great-lakes.org. ✧



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Position Statement

Representing a major interest in the aquatic resources of the Great Lakes states and the province of Ontario, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a confederation of organizations and individuals with a concern for the present and future of sport fishing, our natural resources and the ecosystem in which we live. We encourage the wise use of our resources and a search for the truth about the issues confronting us.

Inland Seas Angler

GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT

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States take another crack at Supreme Court

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to close the locks on the Chicago Waterway System and Sanitary Ship Canal for a second time. The court rejected the state's original request in January.

Despite that ruling, some agencies — such as Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes — are pressing for closure. "We have called for the emergency action of closing and obviously have not been successful to this point," said Ken DeBeaussaert, director. "We need to identify what our longer-term responses will be until we reach the point that we think is necessary of finally separating the systems so that we don't have this passage of the problems of the Mississippi to the Great Lakes or vice versa," he said.

Illinois has 63 of about 10,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, "but somehow they're still controlling the fate of the entire Great Lakes region," he said. DeBeaussaert is among those who want the canal closed and said the summit will provide another avenue toward achieving that goal. "It's a great opportunity for us to try to get the sense of urgency that we feel about the need to act to protect the Great Lakes from the threat," he said.

DeBeaussaert said the summit presents an opportunity for Michigan and other Great Lakes states to impress upon federal agencies the need for immediate action.

We want "to keep the carp out of the lakes, protect the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery and nearly a million Michigan jobs," said Nick De Leeuw,

a public information officer for Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox. "Closure is necessary to protect Great Lakes fisheries."

Many lawmakers in Great Lakes states are pressing for action to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan, calling the situation urgent.

DNA evidence shows that Asian carp have breached an electrical barrier on the Chicago River southwest of Chicago.

Asian carp are a nonnative species introduced to North America through Arkansas fish hatcheries and have been swimming up the Mississippi River for years. Many scientists fear the carp will soon find their way through Chicago and into Lake Michigan. ✧

WI – Attorney General resolved to continue Carp fight

Further study and open locks is unacceptable

MADISON – Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen was given a report earlier this month by a Wisconsin Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General on the results of the Asian Carp Summit held Monday, February 8, 2010 in Washington D.C. with Governors from Great Lakes states including Michigan and Wisconsin and White House officials. While Department of Justice attorneys are representing the State of Wisconsin in litigation pending before the United States Supreme Court that seeks to close Army Corps of Engineers and Chicago sanitary district waterways locks in Illinois to avoid the entry of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes, Van Hollen and other Attorneys General currently in court regarding the matter were not invited to the summit.

Lawyers from the Wisconsin Department of Justice participated in a separate conference call with USDOJ Main Justice February 10 to hear a report of the proceedings.

Although Van Hollen and other state Attorneys General have

demanding that the locks be closed to prevent the migration of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes, the plan revealed at the White House rejects this approach in favor of a plan that will merely reduce the amount of time that the locks remain open while further studying the matter.

"I am not moved that this is a solution at all. If this course of action is to be followed, there is little to stop the certain infestation and ruination of the Great Lakes by Asian carp. Further study and open locks is unacceptable. I have instructed our team here at Justice that our participation in the litigation will continue. The Great Lakes are not a koi pond for six foot flying fish that eat half their body weight every day," said Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen.

Attorney General Van Hollen and the Wisconsin Assembly authorized Wisconsin's participation in an action now before the United States Supreme Court. A renewed motion has been presented to the Court that seeks an immediate order

to close their locks until a certain method can be arrived at to ensure no Asian carp enter Lake Michigan. No date has been set by the Court for a hearing on the matter. ✧

Barna to lead OH Lake Erie Enforcement Unit

COLUMBUS, OH – Gino Barna, 49, of Port Clinton, has been named supervisor for the Lake Erie Law Enforcement Unit of the Ohio DNR. Barna replaces Kevin Ramsey, who retired in September of 2009. ✧

Current law on militias

"The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age. The classes of the militia are (1) the organized militia, which consists of the National Guard, and (2) the unorganized militia, which consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard."

Title 10 Section 311(a) of the United States Code. ✧

Feds pass on surest solution to Asian carp advance

TRAVERSE CITY, MI (AP) – With marauding Asian carp on the Great Lakes' doorstep, the federal government has crafted a \$78.5 million battle plan that offers no assurance of thwarting an invasion and doesn't use the most promising weapon available to fight it off.

The surest way to prevent the huge, hungry carp from gaining a foothold in the lakes and threatening their \$7 billion fishing industry is to sever the link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin, created by engineers in Chicago more than a century ago. That apparently is easier said than done.

However, the strategy released by the Obama administration on February 9 agrees only to conduct a long-range study of that idea, which could take years. The government refuses to shut down two navigational locks on Chicago waterways that could provide an easy pathway for the carp into the lakes, although it promises to consider opening them less often. This, in spite of the fact the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council and other agencies and conservation groups argue that "ecological separation" of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal from the Mississippi River is the only effective solution and must be achieved immediately.

Instead, the plan outlines two dozen other steps, from strengthening an electric barrier designed to block the carp's advance to using nets or poisons to nab fish that make it through. That's an expensive gamble that may not keep enough carp out of the lakes to prevent an infestation.

The solution the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and anglers prefer — cutting ties between the lakes and the Mississippi — would mean reconfiguring some 70 miles of canals and rivers. That's a massive undertaking that could not happen quickly and is fervently opposed by

barge operators who move millions of tons of commodities through the Chicago locks each year.

Bighead and silver carp, both native to Asia, have been migrating toward the lakes since escaping from Deep South fishponds and sewage treatment plants in the 1970s. The biggest can reach 80 lbs. and 4 ft. long, consuming up to 40% of their body weight daily in plankton, the base of the aquatic food chain. Once established in the lakes, the carp could starve out the prey fish on which popular species such as salmon and whitefish depend.

The carp have already infested parts of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, driving away many native fish. Silver carp are known to hurtle from the water at the sound of passing motors and slam into boaters with bone-breaking force.

While scientists differ on whether the carp would thrive in the Great Lakes, which are colder, deeper and ecologically different than rivers, many say the risk is too great to take any chances. "None of us know for certain what their impact would be," University of Notre Dame biologist David Lodge told a House subcommittee this week. "There's only one way to find out, and I don't think any of us want that."

Pulled in different directions by fishing and barge industries; and politicians in Illinois and those from the other Great Lakes states, the Obama administration says the only realistic approach is to confront the carp on multiple fronts instead of taking the bolder step of severing Lake Michigan from the Mississippi basin.

"We cannot fight biology with engineering alone," Cameron Davis, the Environmental Protection Agency's spokesman on the issue, told the congressional panel. Yet the federal plan is heavy on technological innovations. Among them: barriers using sound, strobe lights and bubble

curtains to repel carp and biological controls to prevent them from reproducing. They're promising measures — but still on the drawing board.

Environmentalists and Great Lakes governors outside of Illinois who want to close the Chicago locks claim it's the best short-term option. But it isn't a foolproof solution, as young carp might still be able to slip through the leaky structures. The Chicago waterways also have other access points to Lake Michigan.

Army Corps of Engineers officials are putting their faith in a two-tiered electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal about 25 miles from Lake Michigan, to which they will add a third section this year. It emits pulses to scare off the carp or knock them unconscious if they don't turn back. No carp have been found above the barrier, although biologists have detected their DNA in numerous spots past it and even within the lake itself.

"While we're all talking," Lodge said, "the fish are swimming."

That almost certainly means at least some carp have eluded the device and reached the lake. The government's plan aims to keep their number low enough to prevent them from breeding. The problem is that no one knows how many carp need to make it into the lake to establish a foothold that can't be turned back.

"This is a lot of money to pile into stopgap measures," said Phil Moy, a University of Wisconsin Sea Grant researcher and co-chair of the Chicago Waterway Barrier Advisory Committee (of which the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council is a long-time active member). "It may do some good in the short term, but in the long term it's not going to solve the problem of invasive species on both sides of the divide. Ecological separation has to happen for this to be successful." ✧

Forget Carp . . . Deadly Fish Virus now in all Great Lakes

A deadly fish virus – viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus – first discovered in the Northeast in 2005, has been found for the first time in Lake Superior. The virus is now in all of the Great Lakes.

The viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV), which causes fatal anemia and hemorrhaging in many fish species, poses no threat to humans, said Paul Bowser, professor of aquatic animal medicine at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Bowser and colleagues recently tested 874 fish from seven sites in Lake Superior in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle. Fish from Paradise and Skanee in Michigan and St. Louis Bay and Superior Bay in Wisconsin tested positive. Some of the results have been corroborated by other labs; others have tests still under way.

The virus, which has been identified in 28 freshwater fish species in the Great Lakes watershed, has reached epidemic proportions in the Great Lakes and threatens New York's sport-fishing industry, said Bowser, estimated to contribute some \$1.4 billion annually to New York's economy.

"People come from all over the eastern United States to fish the Great Lakes," said Bowser, noting that the virus has also been found in a few inland waters as well, including lakes, streams and a family-owned earthen pond. "The economy of many of these areas ebbs and flows with the changing seasons, as well as perceived value of outdoor recreational opportunities. The value of these opportunities is dependent on how successful we are at managing the health of wild fish. On a worldwide basis, VHSV is considered one of the most serious pathogens of fish, because it kills so many fish, is not treatable and infects a broad range of fish species."

While no significant fish mortality due to VHSV was observed in 2008 and 2009, "It is important to note that there are still fish harboring VHSV; essentially the infection proceeds even though no mortalities are being observed," said Bowser. "This is important because it suggests that these infected fish may serve as a reservoir for the virus in the Great Lakes ecosystem. While we don't fully understand the lack of recent mortality, the potential presence or absence of stressors on the fish may be playing a role." ✧

U.S. Coast Guard terminates Loran-C signal

CLEVELAND – On February 8, the U.S. Coast Guard began terminating the North American Loran-C signal at Coast Guard Loran Stations Baudette, Minn. and Seneca, N.Y. on the Great Lakes.

Both stations are being decommissioned and will cease broadcasting the Loran-C signal after 67 years of continuous broadcast to the Positioning, Navigation and Timing communities. Termination of the program was supported through the enactment of the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. ✧

USGS continuing the predator diet study in 2010

From USGS scientist Jeff Schaeffer: "You guys provided us with over 2100 stomachs during 2009. This was an amazing accomplishment. The data are processed, and results will be presented at the spring workshops hosted by Michigan Sea Grant. Last week we were informed that Michigan Sea Grant will provide funds that will allow us to continue the study during 2010. ✧

MN - DNR, Red Lake Nation sign new agreement

The Minnesota DNR, Red Lake Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs have signed a new 5-year agreement that outlines how the parties will work together to maintain the health of the Upper and Lower Red lakes fishery. The new memorandum of understanding closely parallels a 1999-2009 agreement that helped restore high-quality walleye fishing to Minnesota's largest inland body of water. The agreement, among other things, states each entity will support the Red Lake Fisheries Technical Committee, a joint panel of experts that recommends policies and practices to maintain a healthy fishery.

"We've come a long way in the past decade," said DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten, noting that anglers have caught more than 1.1 million pounds of walleye since the lake was reopened to fishing in 2006. "By renewing this agreement, we are reaffirming our commitment to a process that has delivered results."

"Red Lake Band members are pleased that our walleye have come back and our fishing community is revitalized," said Floyd Jourdain Jr., chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. "We are committed to ensuring that Red Lake walleye are managed sustainably in the future. Renewing this agreement will enable the Fisheries Technical Committee to continue its work to help protect this valuable resource."

The agreement was signed during a brief ceremony in Red Lake. Historically, Upper and Lower Red lakes were outstanding walleye fisheries, but they collapsed in the mid-1990s due to over harvest.

The Red Lake Fisheries Technical Committee was formed in 1998. Since then, the regulations, policies and other actions this joint body has recommended have led to a healthy walleye population and a resurgent walleye fishing economy. ✧

NY DEC announces changes to bait fish regulations

Anglers now have 10 days to use purchased, certified bait

Alewife and Rainbow Smelt Allowed in Certain Western New York Waters

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis earlier this month announced revised regulations that extend the time period for anglers to legally possess and use certified bait fish from seven to 10 days after purchase, and also allow the use of some bait fish in certain Western New York waters that had previously been prohibited. The new rules became effective immediately.

The movement of uncertified bait fish can be a principle avenue for the transmission of fish diseases. In an effort to protect New York's fisheries from the introduction of invasive species and diseases, DEC enacted rules to restrict bait fish use including limiting the use of certified disease free bait fish to within one week of purchase.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html
After receiving requests and input

from anglers seeking to extend that time period, DEC is providing an additional three days to allow certified bait fish to be used in state waters.

With the extension to 10 days, anglers can potentially use the bait fish over consecutive weekends, depending on the date of purchase. The 10-day period will extend from the date of purchase indicated on the required, dated bait fish receipt.

"This change will enhance the opportunity for anglers to use certified bait fish, but still maintain our efforts to protect fisheries from the potential release of uncertified or diseased bait fish into New York waters," Commissioner Grannis said.

In addition, the new regulation allows for the use of two bait fish species in additional waters of the state where their use is currently prohibited. Alewife may now be used in Hemlock Lake (Livingston

County), Canadice Lake (Ontario County) and Waneta Lake (Schuyler County). In addition, use of rainbow smelt as bait will also be allowed in Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake, as well as Honeoye Lake (Ontario County). These species are being added to the acceptable list of bait fish species that can be used because reproducing populations of alewife and smelt currently exist in these lakes and their use as bait fish poses no biological threat to the waters' fish communities.

While DEC is expanding the list of waters where the use of alewife and rainbow smelt is permitted, use is still subject to the statewide regulations pertaining to the use of bait fish, including the prohibition against the overland transport of uncertified bait fish.

For more info:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html
✧

Coast Guard rescues five in Saginaw Bay

Coast Guard Station Saginaw River rescued five people in Saginaw Bay, MI on January 31. Three females and two males were rescued after two all-terrain vehicles they had been riding fell through the ice. The victims were able to get out of the water, back onto the ice and call 911.

"They all seemed okay, not hypothermic, just wet and really cold," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Greg Torrey. The Coast Guard transported the five to Thomas Marina, where they were met by local EMS and checked for injuries. ✧

* * * * *

"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend."

Zenna Schaffer

Warrant for trucker accused of transporting zebra mussels

An arrest warrant has been issued for a commercial trucker from Michigan charged with transporting zebra mussels into Washington State aboard a 50' cabin cruiser. The charges stem from the delivery of a Lake Michigan Sea Ray to Washington.

David Derderian, 44, of Fraser, MI, was charged last November with unlawful transportation of an exotic species and making false statements to law enforcement officers. The court issued a warrant for his arrest when he failed to appear for his arraignment Jan. 13. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife also referred the case to the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service for consideration of federal charges for interstate transport of the invasive mussels, a violation of the Lacey Act.

FWS proposes listing pythons in Lacey Act

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the USFWS will propose to list the Burmese python and eight other large constrictor snakes that threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems as "injurious wildlife" under the Lacey Act. The proposal, which will be open to public comment before Salazar makes a final decision, would prohibit importation and interstate transportation of the animals.

"I've asked the USFWS to make recommendations regarding the potential tools we need to address the invasive species challenge, both to combat existing invasive species problems and act more effectively to prevent the introduction of new invasive threats into our country," said Salazar. ✧

MI Trout Streams Reclassified Into new Restricted Gear Category

The Michigan DNR has reclassified trout streams with differing gear restrictions into a single "gear restricted" category.

The new category, the major first change in the DNR's stream classification system that was adopted a decade ago, will allow for more flexible fishing regulations on the streams that have been classified as Type 5, 6 and 7 streams in the past. No immediate regulation changes have been proposed for specific streams.

"Combining the Type 5, 6 and 7 streams into one category simplifies our regulatory framework and creates flexibility for protecting trout populations while allowing diverse fishing opportunities," explained DNR Fish Chief Kelley Smith. "With this change, we're ready to work with trout anglers to review appropriate regulations for specific streams."

State law allows up to 212 miles of gear-restricted streams statewide.

Anglers had until February 12 to forward comments on appropriate regulations or to nominate additional waters for the Gear Restricted Category online to dnr-gearrestricted@michigan.gov.

The DNR's Coldwater Regulations Steering Committee will review all comments and make proposals available for public comment before making any regulations changes. DNR recommendations are expected to be sent to the DNR director this fall for implementation on April 1, 2011. ✧

OH hunting season a bonanza for many area businesses

Ohio businesses share in more than \$859 million spent annually by hunters throughout the Buckeye State, according to information from the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife economic impact survey. ✧

IN Goose Season will continue

The final year of a three-year experimental hunting season aimed at controlling breeding populations of resident Canada geese around urban areas of Indiana has been authorized for selected counties.

Season dates are February 1-15 in select counties. To participate, hunters must have a valid hunting license, Indiana waterfowl stamp, signed federal duck stamp, a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number, and a free permit from the DNR. The free permit is available at www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/, by phone (317-232-4200), or at any state fish and wildlife area, field office, or reservoir during regular business hours in January.

Ordering online allows the customer to print a permit at the time of order and saves postage costs. Hunters can minimize time online by not waiting until the last minute to apply. DNR waterfowl biologist Adam Phelps said overall response from hunters remains positive, and that adding an online permit application last year helped, as did adding several check stations.

Data collected from these heads are used to help determine if the late season will continue in future years. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines require that at least 80% of the geese harvested during the three-year experimental period must be the giant subspecies of Canada goose, the goose that commonly breeds in Indiana and surrounding states.

"If we remain over 80% giants across all three years, we will ask the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant operational status to the season," Phelps said. "This means that birds would no longer need to be checked and no permit would be needed to hunt."

Even if Indiana meets federal guidelines that qualify for extension, the season may be closed in future years if local Canada goose populations are reduced too much. The bag limit for the experimental

USFWS grants \$266,853 for restoration of Illinois coastal wetland

The USFWS has awarded \$266,853 to the Illinois DNR to support the restoration of wetland habitat in Cook County adjacent to the Grand Calumet River, a tributary of Lake Michigan. The federal funds are provided through the 2010 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, and will supplement a non-federal contribution from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Friends of the Forest Preserves is partnering with the Illinois DNR to complete the coastal wetland restoration.

"This area is an important stopover location for migratory birds and provides breeding habitat for other wildlife," said Tom Melius, Midwest Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "These grants allow us to work with our partners to conserve coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes region, and the fish and wildlife that inhabit this treasured part of our country."

The federal funding is part of more than \$19.2 million to support 25 conservation projects benefiting fish and wildlife on more than 6,100 acres of coastal habitat in 11 states through 2010. The federal grants will be matched by nearly \$26 million in partner contributions from state and local governments, private land-owners and conservation groups. ✧

season is five Canada geese per day, with a possession limit of 10. Shooting hours are from a half-hour before sunrise to sunset.

Federal regulations prohibit the Late Canada Goose and Light Goose special seasons being open at the same time. As a result, the Light Goose season will be February 16 to March 31 in the 30 counties designated for the Late Canada Goose season, and February 1 to March 31 in all other counties. ✧

World record pending on striper

International Game Fish Association representative Julie Ball sent word of a pending world-record 51.5 lb. striped bass caught on a fly rod.

Richie Keatley of Norfolk fooled the big rockfish with a hand-tied, blue-tinted 3/0 Clouser fly at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel on December 17. After a 30-minute battle, Keatley brought the huge striped bass alongside his 22' boat. It wasn't successfully netted until the fourth attempt by Keatley's friend, Pete Sileo.



With the help of Ball, who is no stranger to world records, an

application for a 20 lb. tippet world mark was submitted. Rockfish are hooked at the Hampton Roads crossing, in the York and Rappahannock Rivers, at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and along the oceanfront. The biggest stripers seem to prefer the Bridge-Tunnel's high-rise area and waters up into the Bay along the Eastern Shore side. However, starting on New Year's Day, anyone fishing for rockfish in the Chesapeake must release them. ✧

Preview of Lake Huron recreational catch

From the 10 Main Basin trout/salmon index ports

Here are a few summary tables and figures illustrating trends in the recreational fishery for trout/salmon in the Main Basin of Lake Huron, based on the 10 so-called "index ports" that the DNRE tries to cover every year for the purpose of following trends in recreational harvest and catch rates. The 2009 fishing year was very similar to 2008. In fact, the Main Basin has fallen into a new pattern of low angler use, low catch rates, and low harvests of trout and salmon when compared with the pre-2005 period.

Walleye harvest has been higher since 2005, probably reflecting several years of successful walleye reproduction since the collapse of alewives. Harvest estimates are given in Table 1 for every port for which there was a creel survey conducted in 2009. I was surprised to see that 94% of the number of fish harvested, as shown at the bottom of Table 1, was composed of walleyes, ciscoes, and yellow perch. Had we conducted a complete survey of the St. Marys River, the percentage of these native species in the harvest would have been even higher.

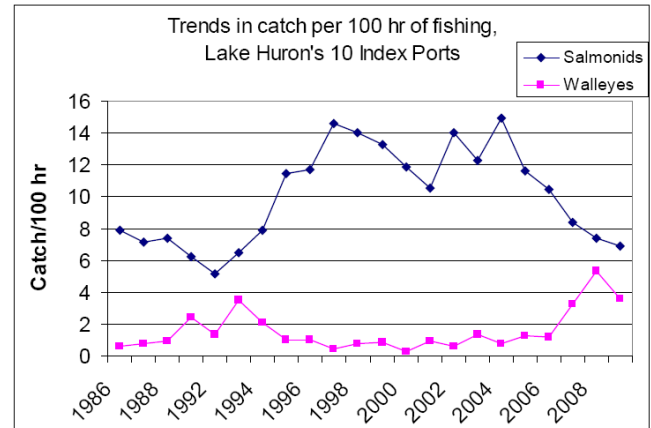


Fig 2 - Catch rates of salmonids and walleyes in the 10 Main Basin ports. Catch rates for walleyes have risen to nearly equal those of trout and salmon at these traditional trout/salmon ports

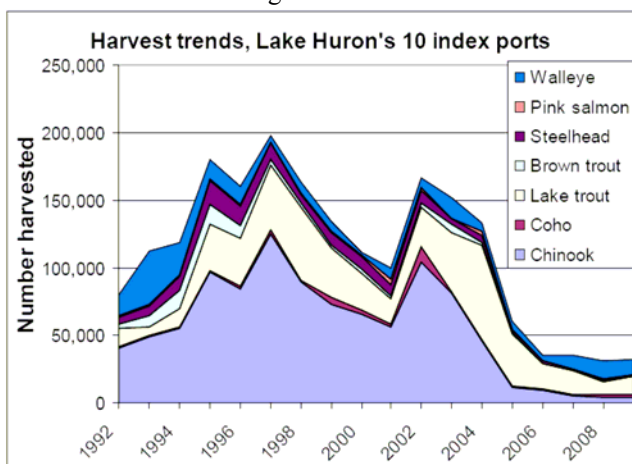


Fig 1 - Trends in harvest, by species, Main Basin index ports, 1992-2009. Harvest has leveled off and remained low relative to the pre-2005 period.

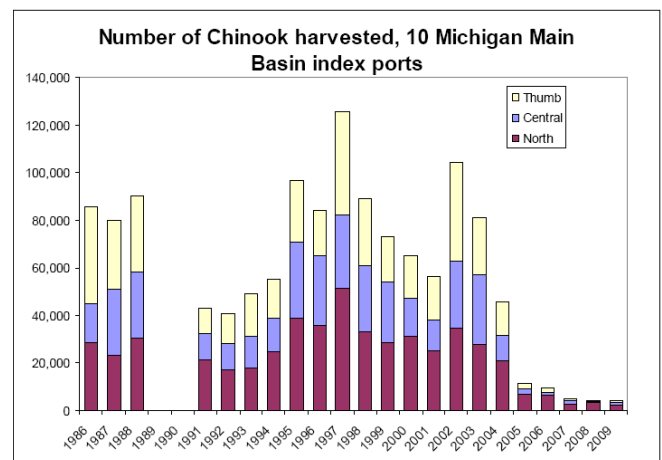


Fig 3 - Trends in harvest of Chinook salmon at the 10 index ports. Salmon growth has recovered somewhat; harvest has not. Over half the harvest of Chinooks in Michigan waters occurs in the north (from Alpena to Detour)

2009 Harvest summary by port, Lake Huron (major species only), does not include Charter

	Chinook	Steelhead	Coho	Atlantics	Pink salmon	Brown trout	Lake trout	Walleye	Yellow Perch	Cisco	Lake Whitefish
Alpena	359	127	28	8	60	0	853	1,608	0	0	5
AuGres	0	32	13	0	0	0	0	84,084	26,377	0	0
Detour	291	21	38	185	0	0	569	0	120	0	0
Essexville-Sebewaing	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	42,401	5,463	0	0
Harbor Beach	46	279	566	129	44	0	3,883	3,425	25	0	64
Harrisville	344	45	11	0	0	5	2,451	56	0	0	0
Les Cheneaux	856	163	10	10	18	0	331	6	41,089	37,887	0
Lexington	447	194	650	5	8	13	384	40	11,661	0	0
Mouth Saginaw R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,463	2,455	0	0
Munuscong Bay	0	0	0	36	25	0	0	4,564	55,351	54,559	3,994
Oscoda	454	58	45	0	0	0	1,100	1,111	0	0	19
Pinconning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70,309	8,836	0	0
Presque Isle	243	47	12	20	7	0	963	122	0	0	0
Pt. Austin	29	0	74	0	0	5	1,470	1,843	38	0	202
Pt. Sanilac	354	195	467	0	0	0	918	82	6,944	0	10
Raber Bay	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,803	7,173	7,614	66
Rockport	307	87	76	170	1	0	866	123	0	0	0
Rogers City	1,648	95	17	35	2	36	1,769	51	0	0	10
St. Ignace	447	30	2	8	71	0	91	8	0	0	0
St. Marys Rapids	68	339	125	64	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tawas	18	48	0	0	0	63	13	2,520	6,270	0	6
Upper St. Marys R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,116
Total	5,985	1,760	2,134	670	255	122	15,673	258,619	171,802	100,060	5,492

Table 1 - Preliminary summary of harvest at each port for which a creel survey was conducted on Lake Huron/St. Marys River in 2009. Charter reports have not yet been added to these harvest estimates.

Courtesy, Michigan DNRE Charlevoix Fishery Research Station

EPA releases first-ever Baseline Study of U.S. Lakes

The USEPA has released its most comprehensive study of the nation's lakes to date. The draft study, which rated the condition of 56 percent of the lakes in the United States as good and the remainder as fair or poor, marked the first time EPA and its partners used a nationally consistent approach to survey the ecological and water quality of lakes. A total of 1,028 lakes were randomly sampled during 2007 by states, tribes and EPA.

"This survey serves as a first step in evaluating the success of efforts to protect, preserve, and restore the quality of our nation's lakes," said Peter Silva, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water.

The National Lakes Assessment

reveals that the remaining lakes are in fair or poor condition. Degraded lakeshore, rated "poor" in 36% of lakes, was the most significant of the problems assessed. Removal of trees and shrubs and construction of docks, marinas, homes and other structures along shorelines all contribute to degraded lakeshore habitat.

Nitrogen and phosphorous are found at high levels in 20 percent of lakes. Excess levels of these nutrients contribute to algae blooms, weed growth, reduced water clarity, and other lake problems. EPA is very concerned about the adverse impacts of nutrients on aquatic life, drinking water and recreation. The agency will continue to work with states to address water quality issues through effective nutrient

management.

Included was a comparison to a subset of lakes with wastewater impacts that were sampled in the 1970s. It finds that 75% show either improvements or no change in phosphorus levels. This suggests the nation's investments in wastewater treatment and other pollution control activities are working despite population increases.

The results of this study describe the target population of the nation's lakes as a whole and are not applicable to a particular lake. Sampling for the National Rivers and Streams Assessment is underway, and results from this two-year study are expected to be available in 2011. Details at: <http://www.epa.gov/lakessurvey/> ✧

Fed, State officials detail plan

Continued from page 1

► The feasibility study on potential closure of the locks will examine the effectiveness of lock operations in blocking carp movement, the risks and costs associated with closure, and alternative steps, officials said.

Dick Lanyon, executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, said that one aspect to the federal government's control plan could limit shipping and boating traffic through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to certain hours of the day or certain days of the week.

Officials haven't yet announced a schedule, Lanyon said, and don't yet know what impact this would have on cargo shipping and recreational boating in the Chicago area. The locks and dams would still be able to be opened in emergency situations to prevent flooding, Lanyon said.

Under normal operating conditions, Lanyon said, the navigational locks and dams remain closed until a ship or boat is approaching.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, whose bid for a court order forcing immediate closure of the locks was rejected while his lawsuit against the state of Illinois goes forward, released this statement regarding a possible partial closing.

"We have yet to see an official proposal in response to our suit, but that sounds as logical as keeping criminals in jail four days a week and hoping the other three days go well," Cox said. "Michigan and the other states continue to demand an immediate, full-time closure of the locks and a plan to get to a permanent separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basin. We have not seen such a plan from Illinois or the federal government."

In addition to Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the meeting also drew officials from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environ-

mental Protection Agency, the Interior Dept. and the Coast Guard.

One participant, Tom Strickland, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, talking about Illinois, said: "We are providing immediate financial, technical and research assistance to the state for their Asian carp control efforts in South Chicago waterways, and will continue to do everything we can to keep carp out of Lake Michigan."

The federal strategy also outlined longer-term management techniques to curb the Asian carp threat. Some \$5 million will be spent on additional chemical treatments; \$3 million to expand the commercial market for Asian carp in Illinois and elsewhere, with some proceeds from carp filets going to ecosystem restoration and invasive species prevention; and more than \$1.5 million for new research. ♦

Asian carp in Calumet Harbor

Continued from page 1

"Clearly this is not good news," said Major General John Peabody, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. "But eDNA technology provides the advanced warning of the possible presence of Asian carp, so that all agencies supporting the RCC can focus their efforts and resources to optimal effect. The COE will continue to collaborate with our partners to urgently execute already planned actions, and further develop other multi-agency measures that will defeat this threat to the Great Lakes," said Peabody.

The announcement was made public on Jan. 19, 43 days after the DNA was collected. According to the research committee collecting the samples, it takes approximately 14 days to analyze the eDNA samples.

The Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) is comprised largely of agencies that participated in last month's successful "rapid response" action. It is now working

to respond to the most recent eDNA results, including consideration of:

► Rapid deployment of intensive netting, including electrofishing and specialized netting alternatives, in the area near O'Brien Lock to reduce the possibility that a self-sustaining population might be established,

► Continued research into scientific advances to apply detection systems that will allow participating agencies to pinpoint the exact location and numbers of carp; current eDNA testing does not yet provide this information,

► Planning to develop the concept of how existing structures, such as locks, could be operated in a way that would minimize the risk of carp migration while the USCG, local public safety and emergency responders, needed cargo, and other traffic transits the waterway;

► Expedited construction of new electric dispersal Barrier IIB to complement existing barriers, and severance of culverts and other bypass routes in the event of flooding, that might allow carp entry from adjacent waterways. Interim obstructions will be completed this year;

► Accelerate development of possible biological controls for Asian carp; and

► Continued efforts to assess "ecological separation" as a long-term strategy that blocks invasive species from transferring between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds while still allowing cargo and "clean traffic" to pass, leveraging the Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Transfer Study.

"The IDNR is committed to working with all of our partners in the coming weeks and months by using conventional sampling methods in the Chicago waterway system and near shore areas of Lake Michigan to help determine locations and abundance of Asian carp and try to confirm this new environmental DNA evidence," said John Rogner, Illinois DNR Assistant

Director.

Participating agencies will continue using eDNA and other monitoring methods to provide early warning about possible Asian carp presence. The cooler water during the winter months reduces the likelihood of Asian carp detection because of reduced algae and other food sources, and fish tendency to slow down their activity and reside in deeper waters. With decreased metabolism Asian carp are less active and, therefore, harder to detect. Still, participating agencies continue to view their top priority as keeping Asian carp from becoming established in Lake Michigan.

“From what we have seen in other parts of the country, Asian carp could out-compete our native, sport and commercial fish in southern Lake Michigan,” said Charlie Wooley, Deputy Regional Director, USFWS. “We call them an aquatic vacuum cleaner because they filter important food resources out of the water and turn it into carp biomass,” said Mr. Wooley.

“The Service remains committed to supporting our partners by assisting in intensified field monitoring and focused fish sampling, exploring new methods of Asian carp control, and engaging community stakeholders.”

“Defeating Asian carp will require working together,” said Cameron Davis, senior advisor to USEPA Administrator Lisa Jackson on Great Lakes issues. “We have a strong, committed team in place that acted collaboratively and successfully during December’s rapid response action. That’s what it will take now.”

“The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has more than 50 years experience controlling the invasive sea lamprey,” said Dr. Michael Hansen, chair of the commission. “The commission fully recognizes the necessity to prevent Asian carp from establishing populations in the Great Lakes and strongly supports the efforts of the participating agencies to this end.”

Additional information about the recent sampling efforts is available on the Army Corps of Engineers' website at www.lrc.usace.army.mil. Additional information is at www.asiancarp.org/rapidresponse.

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OH - Wildlife Council looks at size limits for 16 Inland Waterways

Open houses will be held on March 6 in five districts

The Ohio Wildlife Council is considering a proposal for a 15" minimum size limit on walleye, sauger and saugeye on 16 inland waterways. The regulation is designed to improve the age and size structure of these fish populations on those lakes, creating better fishing. This proposal would not go into effect until March 1, 2011.

The 16 lakes or reservoirs that are being proposed include Acton (Butler and Preble counties), Alum Creek (Delaware County), Atwood (Carroll and Tuscarawas counties), Buckeye (Fairfield, Licking and Perry counties), Caesar Creek (Clinton, Greene and Warren counties), Ferguson (Allen County), Findlay 1 & 2 (Hancock County), Indian (Logan County), Lake Snowden (Athens County), Metzger (Allen County), Piedmont (Belmont, Guernsey and Harrison counties), Pleasant Hill (Ashland and Richland counties), Rocky Fork (Highland County), Seneca (Guernsey and Noble counties), Tappan (Harrison County) and West Branch (Portage County).

A number of rules concerning the taking, possession and propagation of native Ohio amphibians and reptiles have been proposed. Two Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) sections that now deal with these species would be combined into one OAC section for ease of understanding.

In 2000, rules were implemented dealing with native Ohio amphibians and reptiles. Since

that time, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Tag technology has changed and the laws need to be updated to reflect the new technology and record keeping.

Rules dealing with certain turtles and frogs were also proposed. The daily bag limit for bullfrogs and green frogs would be raised to 15. There will be no possession limit on these frogs. Those pursuing frogs would still have to have a valid fishing license.

Snapping and softshell turtles would have a minimum shell size limit of 13" imposed for harvest. The closed season for these turtles would be extended from May 1-June 30. Currently, the closed season for these turtles is May 1 through the second Friday in June. The proposal allows continued turtle harvest for food while restricting the take of the most viable breeding-age female turtles.

All lands owned, controlled, administered or under agreement with the Div. of Wildlife would be closed to collection of reptiles and amphibians, with the exception of bullfrogs, green frogs, snapping and softshell turtles. This rule would take a holistic approach to the management of amphibians and reptiles, ensuring sustainable populations continue to persist on state lands.

Open houses will be held on Saturday, March 6, in each of the state's five wildlife districts to provide the public an opportunity to view and discuss proposed hunting and trapping regulations with state wildlife officials. For directions to the open houses, please call 1-800-WILDLIFE or visit wildohio.com on the Internet.

A statewide hearing on all the proposed rules will be held at 9 a.m., Thursday, March 4, at the Division of Wildlife's District One Office, 1500 Dublin Road in Columbus. After considering public input, the Ohio Wildlife Council will vote on the proposed rules and season dates during its April 7 meeting. ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Asian carp issue comes down to nature vs. jobs](#)

For most Chicagoans, this whole Asian carp controversy has played like just another fish story, mildly amusing but exaggerated. The Asian carp is suddenly looming as a very real threat — to jobs. And as their situation becomes better understood, the community at large is about to realize it's on the front lines of one of the biggest environmental battles in years.

[Indiana Sides With Illinois on Carp Issue](#)

The State of Indiana is siding with Illinois against the closure of Chicago area locks and gates. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels says in a letter to the Obama Administration that closing the lock system would worsen flooding in parts of his state.

[EDITORIAL: Federal takeover of lakes looms](#)

Like Asian carp and other invasive species, the White House has recently laid the groundwork for a federal takeover of the Great Lakes and its tributaries.

[Asian carp negotiations with Justice Dept. getting us nowhere, Cox says](#)

Attorney General Mike Cox said settlement discussions this afternoon with the U.S. Department of Justice on his lawsuit to temporarily close Chicago locks and permanently close the Chicago canal went nowhere.

[Expert: Canal must close to stop Asian carp](#)

Unless Congress or federal agencies decide to permanently wall off the infamous Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal from the Great Lakes, it will continue to be a superhighway for invasive species, warned David Lodge, director of the Center for Aquatic Conservation at the University of Notre Dame at a Congressional hearing Tuesday.

[Federal takeover of lakes looms](#)

In June, the White House created an Interagency Oceans & Great Lakes Policy Task Force whose statements, at the least, confuse the issue of state sovereignty and, at the worst, threaten it. In fact, the task force effectively authorizes the feds to take over jurisdiction of the region's fishing industry and ...

[Something's fishy about federal plans to control Great Lakes invasion of carp](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio — A federal plan designed to keep hordes of Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes includes catching and eating them, a sure sign the strategy is a recipe for disaster. For almost three decades, federal officials promised to deal with contaminated ballast from ocean freighters, yet invasive species are still arriving.

[Witnesses at hearing agree carp pose danger](#)

Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) called Asian carp "a treacherous, dangerous species that we cannot allow to enter the lakes." Witnesses testifying in front of a House panel on water resources and the environment all agreed on that point. But they continue to disagree on what to do about it.

[One broken water heater: \\$827,000](#)

A heat-pump system installed at the French River Hatchery failed after little more than a week. A year later, no solution is in sight. An \$827,000 geothermal heating system at the hatchery near Duluth has been broken and inoperable since shortly after it was installed more than a year ago.

[What's killing Minnesota's moose?](#)

The bad news continues for Minnesota's moose. The population of the iconic animal in northeastern Minnesota has declined again, based on the latest aerial survey this winter by the Department of Natural Resources.

[Michigan OKs grants for wind power research](#)

The Michigan Public Service Commission has approved two grants totaling about \$1.7 million for studying the development of offshore wind technologies in the state.

[Illinois to step up fight against Asian carp](#)

Fisheries biologists will begin another targeted removal of Asian carp from Chicago waterways next week, using nets, electrofishing and possibly another chemical poisoning to stop advancement of the invasive species into Lake Michigan.

[Expert: Canal must close to stop Asian carp](#)

Unless Congress or federal agencies decide to permanently wall off the infamous Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal from the Great Lakes, it will continue to be a superhighway for invasive species, a scientist warned at a Congressional hearing.

[Lake Erie could freeze over entirely for first time in years](#)

The power is running out on the Lake Erie snow machine. The lake is about 90 to 95 percent ice-covered, and more cold temperatures forecast could freeze the entire lake. The lake hasn't completely frozen over since the winter of 1995-96.

[Pentwater council votes no on proposed wind farm](#)

The Pentwater, Mich., village council voted unanimously to reject the Scandia/ Havgul Clean Energy wind farm project. The resolution voices the community's concerns for the introduction of projects of similar scope and location in Lake Michigan waters.

[Granholt calls Obama carp plan weak](#)

The Obama administration proposed Monday a \$78.5 million plan to try to prevent the voracious Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes, but Gov. Jennifer Granholm said it falls short of what's needed to protect the fragile ecosystem from another threat.

[Henderson suing over Galloo OK](#)

The town of Henderson is asking a judge to annul the town of Hounsfield Planning Board's site plan approval for the proposed Galloo Island Wind Farm. Council says site approval lacks environmental, public notice requirements.

[Kids lose as NYC kills scouting](#)

Today is the 100th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. But the centennial will likely pass with little fanfare in New York City, where of one of America's largest youth organizations has become practically invisible — a loss, especially, to the city's most needy youth.

[Carp talks may miss bigger lake challenge - JSOnline](#)

The governors who called for Monday's Asian Carp summit don't just want to talk about carp; they want the Obama administration to tackle the larger issue of invasive species in the Great Lakes, which have become an ecological stew teeming with at least 185 foreign organisms.

[Feds' Asian carp plan all wet](#)

Only government could come up with something as stupid as this: The new plan to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is to close the Chicago Sanitary and Ship canal three or four days a week for the next couple of months

[\\$2 Million to Address Lake Superior Issues](#)

Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute has received nearly \$2 million to support research, education and outreach activities related to Lakes Superior and Michigan,

[Michigan study disputes economic effect of closing 2 Chicago locks](#)

Illinois politicians have claimed that even a temporary closure of two Chicago navigation locks will lead to regional economic devastation, but a new transportation analysis released by Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox tells a different story

[EPA extends comment period for proposed open lake dumping](#)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will extend its deadline to accept public comments on an application by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to increase open lake dumping of dredged sediment to Feb. 22. The original deadline was Jan. 21.

[Court tosses industry's suit over N.Y. ballast rules](#)

A New York state appellate court has tossed out a challenge by the shipping industry over the state's ballast water treatment requirements for oceangoing ships visiting the Great Lakes.

[Perch return to local waters - in an old factory](#)

A new generation of yellow perch is being netted about a mile from Lake Michigan at an urban fish and vegetable farm called Sweet Water Organics, which mimics the Earth's natural ecosystem in a cavernous industrial building.

[DEC: seemingly elusive bass are plentiful, but gobies more so](#)

The southern shore of Lake Ontario has given smallmouth bass anglers a lot of what they don't want — round gobies.

[Development agency gives nod to Galloo wind PILOT](#)

The final approval for a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement for the proposed Galloo Island Wind Farm came Thursday morning in a 4-2 vote by the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency board of directors.

[Michigan renews push to close Chicago ship locks](#)

Michigan wants the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its refusal to close Chicago-area shipping locks in hopes of keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

[Electric barrier on Pere Marquette turned off; chemical treatment continues for sea lamprey](#)

Attempting to stop sea lamprey with an electric barrier has become a thing of the past on the Pere Marquette River, according to USFWS officials. The federal agency recently announced it no longer will operate its electric weir there and will resume treating the river only with...

[Federal funding for cormorant harassment on Oneida Lake is cut for 2010](#)

Cormorant harassment program for Oneida Lake has been cut out of the federal budget for 2010. That means the adult birds, which each eat an average of one pound of fish a day, will have free rein.

[Opposition against Galloo Island Wind Farm grows](#)

As the proposed Galloo Island Wind Farm project moves closer to becoming a reality, the opposition against it continues to rise and spread to neighboring counties.

[New laboratory will study effects of consumer chemicals on aquatic life](#)

A new \$4.6 million, state-of-the-art research facility at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters will be used to try to better understand the environmental consequences of everyday chemicals and contaminants.

[MNR vessels being built in Wheatley](#)

While many companies are feeling the effects of the economic downturn, Hike Metal is abuzz with work on its latest project — a \$4.35 million contract for two new vessels for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

[Johnson Outdoors files patent-infringement lawsuit over sonar fish-finding equipment](#)

Johnson Outdoors announced it has filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Navico Inc for selling certain fish-finding equipment.

[Governors await date to discuss Asian carp](#)

Great Lakes governors should learn this week when and where the Obama Administration plans to meet with them to address the Asian carp crisis.

[EDITORIAL: The White House needs to step in to stop the Asian carp's advance on the Great Lakes](#)

U.S. Supreme Court justices who refused last week to issue an injunction forcing closure of Illinois shipping locks against Asian carp need to be overruled by wiser political minds.

[Cox wants U.S. Supreme Court to revisit Asian carp issue](#)

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox says the U.S. Supreme Court was not told the whole story before it refused to shut down a Chicago shipping canal to stop the Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

[At center of offshore wind farm debate: How close to shore?](#)

How close is too close? That question is one of the first — and, so far, the thorniest — to address in the debate over locating wind turbines on the Great Lakes.

[EDITORIAL: Time's almost up for stopping carp](#)

Mich. Sen. Carl Levin is trying to order the poison. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Rep. Dave Camp are asking their colleagues in Congress to close up the waterways. Will enough people listen?

[EDITORIAL: What Obama can do](#)

The President has a chance to do something much more effective than hosting a summit to protect the lakes — and he is failing to do so. Obama could order a temporary closing of locks in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

[Danger posed by carp is questioned](#)

"A few fish getting into Lake Michigan doesn't mean there's a population there," said Duane Chapman, a leading Asian carp expert with the USGS in Missouri. "It's the numbers that invade the lakes that will ultimately determine whether they have a chance to get established."

[Asian carp crisis heading to Congress](#)

U.S. Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., introduced a bill on the House floor to force the closing of two locks and expand the powers of the Army Corps of Engineers to stop migration of the invasive species before it reaches the Great Lakes in large numbers. The bill, dubbed the Carp Act...

[Army Corps to sample 2 Indiana rivers for Asian carp](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to collect water samples this spring from two northwestern Indiana Rivers that flow into Lake Michigan as part of its ongoing efforts to track the spread of invasive Asian carp. Major Gen. John Peabody of the Army Corps' Cincinnati office said samples will be taken from Indiana's portions of the Grand Calumet and Little Calumet

[Setback for Ontario in war on Asian carp](#)

The Ontario government is examining its legal options after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to force Illinois to close shipping locks leading to the Great Lakes in order to stop the spread of the Asian carp.

[Deadly fish virus now found in all Great Lakes](#)

A deadly fish virus — viral hemorrhagic septicemia — has been found for the first time in Lake Superior. The virus is now in all of the Great Lakes.

EDITORIAL: Time for talk is over

Talk is good. It's also cheap. But it's not going to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. At least it hasn't so far.

EDITORIAL: Wind power is far from leaving port

Michiganians do not have to worry about, or be excited over, the prospect of lake-based wind turbines anytime soon.

Invasive species 'a slow-motion wildfire'

Invasive species – from zebra mussels and round gobies to the bloody red shrimp discovered three years ago – are one of the top threats to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

EDITORIAL: Michigan is in real bind on Asian carp

Mich. Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the rest of Michigan are in a bind. They don't want the carp to gain a foothold in the Great Lakes, but are nearly powerless to stop that result.

Storm Clouds over Carp

Lindsay Chadderton used this perfect analogy for eDNA sampling for Asian carp around Chicago waterways: "It is like cars driving along a gravel road and throwing up a dust cloud. We are sampling the dust cloud."

Wintertime on Steelhead Alley

ROCKY RIVER, Ohio – They call it Steelhead Alley, a 200-mile stretch of Lake Erie shoreline between the Vermilion River in Ohio and Cattaraugus Creek in New York, where a dozen hookups with the big rainbows is a slow day and 50-fish days are commonplace.

Ludington Workshop - Officials: Lake Michigan Chinook salmon fewer, but larger

Preliminary data shows there likely are fewer, but larger, Chinook in the lake than in previous years, providing further evidence that stocking cuts in 2006 are having the desired effect.

Cormorants a continuing problem

Angler groups are praising the Michigan DNR for listening to them and engaging in a partnership to solve a growing problem of fish depredation by exploding populations of big, fish eating double-crested cormorants.